



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://lgsc.lacounty.gov>**

**Tuesday, November 4, 2014**

**9:30 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-5079)

**Attachments:**    [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance. (14-4806)

**Chairperson Mark Burman called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.**

**1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Commissioner Barry Waite joined the meeting at 9:34 a.m. and  
Commissioner Andrew Friedman at 9:36 a.m.**

Present:            Chairperson Mark Burman, 1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta,  
2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes, Commissioner Jules  
Bagneris III, Commissioner Andrew Friedman, Commissioner  
Azita Karimkhany Fatheree, Commissioner Jesse Gabriel,  
Commissioner Laurence M. Kaplan, Commissioner Ana Ponce  
and Commissioner Barry Waite

Absent:            Commissioner Andrew Westall

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 7, 2014. (14-4807)

**On motion of 2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes, seconded by  
Commissioner Ana Ponce, unanimously carried, this item was approved  
with the following corrections:**

- On page 1, under Call to Order, remove Rodrigo Guerra, Jr. name from the Absent category.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

2. Chairperson's Report for the month of November 2014. (14-4808)

**There was no report given.**

3. Staff Report for the month of November 2014. (14-4810)

**Ms. Emma De Jesus, Commission Services staff, conveyed the Commission for Women's (CW) intent to request someone from the Local Governmental Services Commission (LGS) to speak before the CW regarding AB109. Several Commissioners were concerned about presenting before the CW since LGS was still in discussion regarding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. During discussion, 1st Chairperson Bob Archuleta suggested that the CW utilize past stakeholders/presenters that the LGS has heard from.**

**After further discussion, no action was taken by the Commission.**

4. Update report from Commissioner Kaplan on improving the County's regional approach to tourism promotion and services by possibly establishing a regional tourism authority. (14-2607)

**Commissioner Larry Kaplan reported that he is still conducting background research on tourism programs to identify issues and concerns in other cities/jurisdictions. He will be identifying the stakeholders and provide the Commission with a report and possible directions the Commission may want to pursue.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **III. DISCUSSION**

5. Discussion on Forensic Research Center "Project" within Los Angeles County. (Continued from the meetings of 09/09/14 and 10/07/14.) (14-3357)

**Mr. Ed Winter, Assistant Chief of the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner (Department), provided an initial cost estimate of \$600,000 for a Forensic Research Center (Center) in Los Angeles County.**

**Ms. Karina Peck, Human Remains Detection (HRD) K-9 Handler, County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner Coroner, added that the goal is an estimation that is contingent upon the location of land, size of land, charges if any for rent of land/facility, quality of the land/soil and existing land use regulations.**

**During discussion, Ms. Peck and Mr. Winter responded to Chairperson Mark Burman and 1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta's questions regarding the Peter Pitchess Detention Center (Pitchess). Pitchess is at an ideal location as it is isolated, secured, entails various terrains and may not incur cost for use of the land. The annual budget will typically be for staffing and possible rental costs. Ms. Peck emphasized that the goal is to have the Center be self-sustaining.**

**Mr. Winter introduced Elizabeth Miller, Ph.D., DABFA. Dr. Miller is also a Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Cal State Los Angeles and work closely with the Coroner's office. She noted that one of the major problems in Anthropology today is determining post-mortem intervals which are the length of time someone has been deceased. A forensic research center of this kind would improve in the determination and allow for a more substantive trauma analysis.**

**She added that although there has been some negative press regarding a forensic research center, the public has embraced it. There are waiting lists of individuals will to donate their bodies however, there little room to accommodate the donations. The State already has a donation process in place.**

In response to Commissioners Azita Karimkhany Fatheree and 2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes, Dr. Miller also stated the number of bodies used for the research center is determined by the amount of land available. The amount of time a donated body is used to conduct a study generally depends on the environment/weather. At every center, the family is given the option to have the remains returned to them in perpetuity. The bodies are used in the advancement of science and provide a modern sample that is representative of the American public.

During discussion, 2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes suggested utilizing the best practices from the other centers to assist in further research. She closed by stating, Los Angeles County can be the premier location on forensic science research with the collaboration of engineering, criminalistics and all the other institutions. All of the other centers focus on Anthropology alone and are driven by the individual Anthropology Departments of the institutions that fund them.

Mr. Winter concluded the presentation by stating that the Center would bring Los Angeles County in the forefront of teaching Forensic Anthropology.

Chairperson Mark Burman inquired what the next steps would be for the Department. Mr. Winter stated the Department will be reaching out to the Sheriff's Department and Cal State Los Angeles, via Dr. Miller and other interested universities to obtain additional input so that they can provide an informative proposal to the Board of Supervisors.

Chairperson Mark Burman thanked Mr. Winter, Ms. Peck and Dr. Miller for their informative report and added that he looks forward to providing future reports on developments regarding their proposal to the Board of Supervisors on the Forensic Research Center.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

6. Discussion on recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for action regarding the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 (AB 109 & AB 117) (Continued from the meetings of 06/04/13 and 09/09/14). (13-2532)

**Commissioner Jules Bagneris provided an overview of the draft report to the Board of Supervisors and offered the Commissioners an opportunity to provide input to his recommendations highlighting the following:**

- 1. Oppose any further implementation of the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 because it puts at risk the safety of Los Angeles County residents.**
- 2. Direct the County lobbyists in Sacramento to seek to repeal and replace the Act with a law that keeps state offenders in state prisons that are paid for by the State of California.**

**During discussion, Chairperson Mark Burman cautioned the Commission to stay within the mandate of the Commission. The Commission will need to find a way to offer a detailed assessment of improvements and efficiencies that will benefit the County. Several Commissioners voiced concerns about the perception of how the report is being portrayed.**

**Commissioner Barry Waite provided some insight on how AB109 was developed and suggested redirecting the issue in the report by having the Board of Supervisors request the State to take a second look and see if AB109 is still fiscally responsible. Commissioner Azita Karimkhany Fatheree requested the Commission review the economic impact that AB109 has had on the County of Los Angeles.**

**The Commission discussed other appropriate speakers to come present to the Commission, such as the California State Association of Counties, a representative from the Governor Brown's office or anyone else that may be appropriate. Patricia Carbajal, Intergovernmental Relations Chief Executive Office and Ex-Officio Member shared that the CEO is working with the Governor's office for State funding to make sure they are well funded to address the County's needs. In addition, they have not been asked by the Board of Supervisor to lobby for a repeal of AB109. Ms. Carbajal will reach out to a chief lobbyist in Sacramento for a speaker for a future Commission meeting.**

**After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Larry Kaplan, seconded by Commissioner Jesse Gabriel, there being no objection, the Commission tabled discussion to a future meeting pending an update from Patricia Carbajal, Ex-Officio Member on the availability of a speaker to provide a current status on AB109 from the State's perspective.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **Matters Not Posted**

7. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-4439)

**There were no matters presented for a future agenda.**

##### **Public Comment**

8. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-4812)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

##### **Adjournment**

9. Adjournment for the meeting of November 4, 2014. (14-4813)

**By Common Consent, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.**